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IDEA-0895-68

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27 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Activities

SUBJECT : Status of META Program

REFERENCE : Memo for Record, IDEA-0822-68, dtd
28 October 1968

1. This memorandum is for your information in response to your note of 20 November.

2. Subsequent to the meeting of 25 October (see ref attached) a number of conversations have been held between [] and myself. In addition, LMSC has met with [] on a revised proposal.

3. The current proposal contemplates that all modification would be done on the "Q-Bay" hatch; no modification of the vehicle itself would be required. Approximately ten flights over a period of two and one-half months would be required. Hatches are available for the U-2C, but are in very limited availability for the U-2R. It has been proposed that LAC would do the hatch modification, under [] funding through OSA contracting. LMSC and LAC met on 25 November to prepare cost estimates on this work.

4. While my conversations with [] have strongly emphasized that no commitment was being made, he indicated that the Navy considered the informal agreement between Admiral Carmody and General Ross to be exactly that: an agreement to support the program, at least to the extent of making available the vehicles and needed flying time.

5. A complicating factor in the current proposal concerns the U-2C utilization; projected flights are in the ninth and tenth months of the program, i.e., September and October 1969, for a 1 December 1968 go-ahead, and the "C" may be in storage at that time.

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6. Command and Control would be basically at the Detachment. Pilot operations are minimal, and consist primarily of flying appropriate courses near the Sunnyvale, California, plant of LMSC and reporting position, etc., by voice to the LMSC ground station. Approximately one flight per week would be needed.



Assistant for Technology
Deputy for
Research and Development
Special Activities

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